



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 1646 - SB 2013

April 6, 2022

SUMMARY OF BILL AS AMENDED (017183, 017185): Creates a Class D felony offense for knowingly and unlawfully killing a police dog, fire dog, search and rescue dog, service animal, or police horse without the owner's effective consent. Deletes the Class C misdemeanor offense of obstructing an officer, agent, or member of any society for prevention of cruelty to animals from preventing the perpetration of any act of cruelty upon an animal.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL AS AMENDED:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-14-205, knowingly and unlawfully killing the animal of another without the owner's effective consent is theft of property, graded according to the value of the animal, and enhanced to at least a Class E felony offense if the animal is a police dog, fire dog, search and rescue dog, or police horse.
- Theft of \$500-\$1,000 is a Class E felony, and theft of \$1,000-\$10,000 is a Class D felony.
- Based upon information provided by the Department of Correction, there has been an average of 0.2 admissions in each of the last 10 years for the Class D felony offense under Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-14-205 for intentional killing of an animal, with an average time served of 1.11 years. There have not been any Class E felony offenses under Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-14-205 over the last 10 years.
- There will not be a sufficient change in the number of prosecutions for state or local government to experience any significant change in revenue or expenditures.
- Any impact to the court system as a result of the proposed legislation is estimated to be not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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